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- Today's Insider (PDF)



YOU DON'T SAY...

"It's easy to be bold when you're not coming back."

U.S. Rep. Mark Meadows, on retiring Tennessee Senator Bob Corker's criticisms of Donald Trump's presidency.

MSNBC, 10/09/17

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News Summary

Veto

Gov. Roy Cooper vetoed legislation Monday that would have canceled next year's judicial primary elections, saying he saw it as a precursor to a Republican push to appoint judges instead of having the public elect them.

Cooper signed a separate bill, Senate Bill 582, making a number of changes to the state budget. Among other things, the bill does away with what would have been a 2020 sunset for the state's film industry grants program. Cooper didn't mention a specific project but said the industry needs more certainty in North Carolina.

The judicial bill, Senate Bill 656, would also lower the percentage of votes needed to win crowded elections and make it easier for unaffiliated and third-party candidates to get on the ballot in North Carolina. But the poison pill for Cooper was language added last week to eliminate next year's judicial primaries. Leaders for the General Assembly's Republican majority said they needed a time cushion to continue working on a planned overhaul of voting districts for trial court judges statewide. The plan, House Bill 717, passed the House last week but has not been heard in the Senate.

Cooper called canceling the primaries a "first step toward a constitutional amendment that will rig the system so that the legislature picks everybody's judges."

Something like that has been discussed in the Senate, which has seemed cool to the House's plan to redraw districts for judges. Changing the constitution to allow appointments instead of elections would require a statewide voter referendum.

"The rumors Gov. Cooper cited to justify his veto aren't in this bill, which simply gives lawmakers time to conduct the thorough and deliberate study of North Carolina's judicial elections that groups across the political spectrum -- including members of our judiciary -- have repeatedly called for," Sen. Ralph Hise, R-Mitchell, chairman of the Senate Elections Committee, said in a statement.

Senate Bill 582 is a wide-ranging bill, making both small changes and substantive ones. It forbids Attorney General Josh Stein from pushing criminal appeals work off on local district attorneys, something his office had planned as part of its response to a surprise \$10 million budget cut the General Assembly enacted earlier this year.

The bill also extended the film grant, though, and it included a partial fix for a law expected to trigger major salary cuts for a number of public school principals. These were the two positives Cooper mentioned about the bill Monday, though he said a more permanent solution is needed for other principal salary issues.

Cooper also complained of a missed opportunity in the bill to roll back class size mandates school systems have said will force them to reassigned students, build new schools and scale back offered electives. The Wake County Public School System and a number of parents called last week for a pause on those mandates, and the House agreed. Senate leadership declined. "This needs to be done immediately," Cooper said in his release.

This "technical corrections" bill also includes changes in the way funding set aside to plan for a new state aquarium in Scotts Hill can be used. The once-little-noticed provision in the state budget raised eyebrows last week because it contemplates a publicly funded facility as an anchor for private development.

Senate Bill 656 passed both the House and the Senate with veto-proof margins, suggesting the Republican majority will be able to overturn the Democratic governor's veto. Speaker of the House Tim Moore said Monday legislators will address the issue during a planned January session. In addition to canceling judicial primaries, the bill cuts the plurality threshold to win an election from

40 percent of the vote to 30 percent, making it easier to win crowded contests without a runoff. The bill also would lower the number of petition signatures needed for unaffiliated candidates to make statewide ballots from 2 percent of the turnout in the last governor's election to 1.5 percent. In municipal races, it would go from 4 percent of the area's qualified voters to 1.5 percent. Legislative offices would not be affected, and neither would county offices.

"This legislation makes needed, nonpartisan reforms to our ballot access laws and gives judicial candidates the time they need to analyze any forthcoming changes to judicial maps that the General Assembly may make," Rep. David Lewis, R-Harnett, chairman of the House Elections Committee, said in a statement.(Travis Fain, WRAL NEWS, 10/09/17).

Third Parties

An elections bill that passed the legislature last week -- and was vetoed by Gov. Roy Cooper on Monday -- would give third parties a new option to get on North Carolina ballots, but it's not likely to be used anytime soon. In addition to lowering the petition signatures required for unaffiliated candidates, Senate Bill 656 would grant ballot access to third parties that are on ballots in at least 70 percent of other states. Currently, no third party other than the Libertarian Party has anywhere close to the number of states required by the bill. The Green Party has ballot access in 22 states, or 44 percent, while the Constitution Party is on the ballot in 13 states, or 26 percent.

The Libertarian Party, on the ballot in 37 states, is the only third party currently recognized in North Carolina. The bill would make it easier for the Libertarians to keep their ballot access.

Current law requires parties to receive at least 2 percent of the vote for governor or president in the most recent election. If Libertarian candidates fail to meet that requirement, the party has to go through the petition process again -- which involves getting the signatures of 2 percent of registered voters, or 95,393 signatures. If the legislature overrides Cooper's veto, Libertarians wouldn't face pressure to get 2 percent of the vote because they could keep their ballot access through their recognition in other states.(Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 10/10/17).

Early Voting

The vacant state elections board has prompted confusion and partisan bickering over where early voting will take place in Watauga County this year, and a Superior Court in Wake County is scheduled to hear a legal challenge on Wednesday.

Typically, disputes over early voting schedules among county election board members are resolved by the state's elections board. But due to Gov. Roy Cooper's lawsuit challenging the merger of the elections and ethics boards, there's been no state elections board for months. When early voting schedule disputes remain unresolved, the schedule defaults to the bare minimum required by law: Business hours at the county elections office as well as the Saturday morning prior to the election.

That's now the schedule for Watauga County's November municipal elections, but a Democrat on the county elections board, Stella Anderson, is asking a Superior Court judge to intervene and add a second location in Appalachian State University's student union -- something the town of Boone requested. The judge will have to determine if the unusual vacancy of the state's elections board gives Wake Superior Court legal jurisdiction over the matter. Meanwhile, the Republican who'd opposed the student union site wants to keep the minimum schedule and says the Democrat's effort to add a site would give her party an advantage in the municipal election. Democrats in Watauga say the opposition to the student union site is an effort to make it harder for college students to vote.

Anderson had previously petitioned the administrative staff of the State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement to intervene in the early voting dispute. She asked the agency to petition the court to modify its order governing the operations of elections boards while Cooper's lawsuit is unresolved. "The State Board Office cannot readily identify an administrative process that adequately preserves the statutory framework governing contested early voting plans, nor can it rely on any prior statute that would suggest a substitute procedure helpful to the three-judge Panel or the Supreme Court in crafting interim relief," agency attorney Josh Lawson wrote in a response declining to take action.

The Watauga case is one of several election issues being brought to the courts in the absence of a state elections board. Last week, a rejected complaint involving the residency of Morehead City candidates was appealed to the N.C. Court of Appeals.(Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 10/10/17).

Pipeline Permit

Gov. Roy Cooper's administration has kicked back an environmental permit application by Duke Energy and three other energy companies to build an interstate pipeline to carry natural gas from West Virginia into North Carolina. The letter of disapproval from the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality is the first decision on the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline from any governmental agency -- state or federal -- in the three states the project would traverse. Duke Energy is also expecting a decision this month from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as to whether the \$5 billion pipeline project is necessary.

The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality said the 600-mile underground pipeline, which would travel through eight North Carolina counties, including Johnston and Nash, does not meet the state's standards for erosion and sediment control. The agency has asked Charlotte-based Duke and its business partners to resubmit the application with additional information within 15 days, or to contest the agency's disapproval and request a hearing within 60 days.

The erosion permit is one of three hurdles the Atlantic Coast Pipeline needs to clear in North Carolina. The company also needs an air quality permit for a compressor, a machine that pushes the gas through the pipeline, and also a water quality permit allowing Duke to drill through streams and wetlands.

Duke issued a statement Monday saying it will submit the information requested for the erosion and sedimentation permit. The company has said the pipeline is expected to start moving natural gas in late 2019. "It's a normal part of the process for agencies to ask for additional information before making a final decision," the company said.(John Murawski, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 10/09/17).

Incentives Criticism

The conservative advocacy group Americans For Prosperity launched a campaign Monday criticizing Gov. Roy Cooper for continuing a long-running jobs incentives program. AFP calls the Department of Commerce's grants through the One North Carolina Fund and Job Development Investment Grant program "corporate welfare spending."

The group has launched a website called ReverseRobinHoodCooper.com to blast the governor for issuing more than \$125 million in incentives commitments since he took office. The website calls the incentives "a reverse Robin Hood scheme (that) turns the original story on its head -- he takes money from middle-class residents of the Tar Heel state to give to rich and politically-connected business owners." Both programs were used long before Cooper became governor, and the Republican-led legislature has acted in recent years to extend the program and raise caps on incentive grants -- moves pushed for by then-Gov. Pat McCrory.

"While the website is aimed at Gov. Cooper's giveaways, members of the General Assembly -- from both parties -- should be on notice that our activists are ready, willing, and able to hold them accountable for support of these programs, too," AFP state director Donald Bryson said in a news release. "In the coming weeks, AFP-NC will be launching a phone campaign to call out legislators whose support for corporate welfare giveaways contradict their promises to decrease the tax burden on all North Carolinians."(Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 10/10/17).

UNC Study

As a UNC Board of Governors task force began its analysis of UNC President Margaret Spellings' staff on Monday, members brushed aside suggestions of a rift between Spellings and the board. The task force was created by the board last month at a contentious meeting. It held its first session Monday in Chapel Hill, led by former legislator Bob Rucho, an outspoken Republican state senator who joined the UNC board this summer.

With a goal of studying the purpose of the UNC system's General Administration, the task force will examine the staffing, duties and budget of some 265 employees in Chapel Hill who report to Spellings. The General Administration has an annual budget of \$65.4 million. It's unclear whether the task force is looking to increase, decrease or change the focus of the staff in the system office,

which includes administrators, policy advisers, compliance officers, data managers, financial professionals, lawyers and technical and support staff.

Last month, several board members suggested the new look at General Administration amounted to the board challenging and meddling in Spellings' management of the university system.

"There's always disagreements," Rucho said Monday. "The ultimate goal is the policymakers, who are the Board of Governors, with consultation with the president, establish a policy that we all agree upon and move forward in the best interest of the institution."

Task force members said it was time to take a look at the system staff. Rucho called the review "a massive job." He said the task force should communicate with the 17 campus chancellors, and with faculty, to determine if the General Administration was meeting the needs of its customers. "Are we doing services today that are no longer necessary, as it was 10 years ago?" Rucho posed. "More importantly, if we are, how do we modify, how do we focus the attention of General Administration on improving the quality of education, reducing the cost, allowing us to improve the four-year graduation rate?"

Spellings briefed the panel, which includes some new members, about a \$1 million study by the Boston Consulting Group completed last year. The consultants interviewed 150 stakeholders, delved into the General Administration staff and made 15 recommendations about how UNC, its staff and board should operate.

She also said in August she launched a budgeting process that starts at zero, with the goal of reducing state funding for personnel by 10 percent. In 2016, Spellings said, \$1.3 million went unspent and \$300,000 was reverted to the state.(Jane Stancill, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 10/09/17).

Committee Meetings

With the October session complete, attention is now focused on interim committee meetings, including three today. This morning, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services will meet at 9 a.m. in Room 643 in the Legislative Office Building. The agenda includes comments from Health and Human Services Secretary Mandy Cohen and updates about child welfare programs and case management systems. It'll also include an update on pre-kindergarten slots from Susan Perry-Manning, deputy secretary for human services. Committee members will receive an overview of the interim investigative report of Cardinal Innovations Healthcare Solutions today.

Later in the day, DHHS staff will return for a second meeting. At 1 p.m. the Joint Legislative Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice will also meet in Room 643. Cohen will once again give remarks at the start of the meeting. Committee members will hear updates about Medicaid and NC Health Choice enrollment and financials.

The Child Fatality Task Force will meet today and tomorrow at 10 a.m. in Room 1128 in the Legislative Building. An agenda was not available for the meeting.(Lauren Horsch, THE INSIDER, 10/10/17).

Film Grants

The state film industry has logged another legislative win that signals its grant program is here to stay. On Monday, Gov. Roy Cooper signed SB 582 which, among other actions, included a provision that eliminates the film grant program's sunset date of Jan. 1, 2020. The sunset date would have marked the end of the grant program, which was established in 2015 after the much more lucrative incentive sunset. The move is intended to align the funding program with the N.C. General Assembly's recent decision to make the program's annual \$30 million funding recurring moving forward -- something pro-film legislators had fought for.

Should the sunset have stayed in place and the program ended, the state's recurring funding for it would have had nowhere to go. Johnny Griffin, director of the Wilmington Regional Film Commission, said production companies scouting for filming locations look closely at the mechanisms of a state's film program. With the removal of the sunset date, he said the program will be easier to sell. "We can go to our clients and tell them we don't just have a program that is good for two years, we just have a program," he said.

He added this move makes the state's program function similar to Georgia's, which has lured in billions of dollars in film and television business in recent years -- albeit with more funding.

Rep. Holly Grange, R-New Hanover, said she was absolutely in favor of eliminating the sunset date, a move she called "technical correction" to ensure the program will be attractive to productions. In a statement regarding the bill signing, Cooper said, "The film industry creates jobs in North Carolina and we need to do more to bring certainty for the companies that come to our state."(Hunter Ingram, WILMINGTON STAR-NEWS, 10/09/17).

Hurricane Aid

As North Carolina marked the first anniversary of devastating Hurricane Matthew, a Republican congressman accused Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper's administration of being too slow to distribute millions of dollars in federal aid. "Nearly \$237 million in federal Hurricane Matthew assistance has been provided to rebuild homes in North Carolina, but the money has not yet been released by the North Carolina Office of Emergency Management," says a news release issued last week by U.S. Rep. Robert Pittenger. "This is incredibly frustrating, but much more so for families in Robeson, Cumberland and Bladen who are still awaiting promised help to rebuild their homes," Pittenger said. Pittenger's 9th Congressional District includes Robeson County and parts of Cumberland and Bladen counties. He said the money includes \$71 million for Robeson County and \$35 million for Cumberland County.

North Carolina Emergency Management Director Mike Sprayberry disputed Pittenger's statement. "He's incorrect," Sprayberry said Thursday. In the last week of September, the state awarded \$105 million of the money to Cumberland, Robeson, Edgecombe and Wayne counties, the four counties hardest-hit by the storm, he said.

"While help can never come fast enough for families who are still recovering, we are distributing funds as quickly as possible while meeting the necessary federal requirements and being fiscally responsible," Sprayberry said. "The \$237 million awarded to North Carolina to help rebuild homes damaged by Hurricane Matthew came with specific requirements all of which we've followed, submitting required plans and paperwork before the deadline."(THE FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER, 10/09/17).

Brain Injury Program

The General Assembly has approved \$450,000 in funding to allow between three and five hospitals to participate in a traumatic brain injury pilot program. However, it could take months to determine which hospitals will participate. The legislature committed \$150,000 to the program in the 2017-18 state budget, and \$300,000 in the 2018-19 state budget. The funding goes to the N.C. Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse. Changes to the program's legislation are contained within Senate Bill 582, a technical corrections bill that passed the legislature Thursday.(Richard Craver, WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL, 10/09/17).

Elections Chair

To comply with a new elections law passed by the Republican-led General Assembly, the Wake County board of elections on Monday removed the chairman it had elected two weeks ago -- the cousin of the state Republican Party's executive director. The Wake County Board of Elections on Monday appointed Democrat Mark Ezzell as the new board chairman. Ezzell replaces Eddie Woodhouse, a Republican and cousin of NC GOP director Dallas Woodhouse.

The then-three-member board had unanimously appointed Eddie Woodhouse as chairman to replace Ellis Boyle, a Republican who was about to step down from the board. Ezzell said the board changed course to comply with a new state law that requires the chairperson of county elections boards to rotate between Republicans and Democrats each year -- Democrats in odd years and Republicans in even years.

Gov. Roy Cooper, a Democrat, is suing legislative leaders over the change, which is tied up in the courts. The case could determine whether Republicans will have leadership on elections boards at the state and county level during presidential election years when North Carolina voters also elect their governor.

Josh Lawson, general counsel for the N.C. Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement, wrote a Sept. 29 letter to Ezzell and Woodhouse saying he believes Wake must comply with the new state law -- meaning the chairperson should be a Democrat. "We thought we were doing the right thing," Ezzell said. "It was a bipartisan mistake."

Local elections boards decide details such as polling locations and when sites open for voters to cast ballots early. Woodhouse said the board remains stable despite the change.

"Mark and I have a wonderful working relationship, in a nonpartisan fashion," Woodhouse said, adding that board members operate in the "best interest of voters."

The changes come roughly a year after Dallas Woodhouse lobbied Boyle, the recently-departed former chairman, to appoint Eddie Woodhouse as chairman. Dallas Woodhouse sent the email prior to a Wake board meeting to decide whether it would allow Sunday early-voting hours -- which Boyle supported and Eddie Woodhouse opposed -- before November's general election.(Paul A. Specht, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 10/09/17).

Charter Financing

A school network founded by a wealthy Oregon resident is expanding quickly in North Carolina. John Bryan founded the charter network TeamCFA, which has 13 schools in North Carolina -- more than in any other state. Arizona has four TeamCFA schools, and Indiana has two. Bryan's influence extends beyond support for the schools themselves and into education policy. He is a generous contributor to political campaigns and school-choice causes in North Carolina.

In a letter posted on the network's website in April, Bryan said his commitment of "significant economic resources" -- contributions to politicians and nonprofit "social welfare" groups, and the engagement of investment advisers and others -- helped win legislative approval of the controversial North Carolina law that will have charter operators take over up to five low-performing public schools.

A foundation Bryan supports helps schools with start-up costs and provides instructional support and money for technology. TeamCFA is a nonprofit network that provides \$300,000 in forgivable loans to new schools that agree to its principles. Teachers in TeamCFA schools must be trained in a curriculum called Core Knowledge. Some TeamCFA schools have a classical education theme, but it is not required.

Three of the North Carolina schools opened this year. Student performance was mixed at the remaining schools. Five schools received Bs in the latest round of state grades, while four received Cs and one received a D.

Bryan, 84, was vice president of operations at Georgia Gulf until his retirement in 1989. An August 2002 edition of Atlanta Business Chronicle attributed Bryan's wealth to company stock. Bryan has been a contributor to conservative advocacy groups and Republican candidates. He gave the Fund for Growth, a conservative advocacy group, \$210,000 in 2008, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. In 2014, he gave the conservative super PAC Opportunity Alliance \$200,000 and Freedom Partners Action Fund, another conservative super PAC, \$575,000.

In a 2011 "founder's letter" posted online, Bryan described his philosophy and goals for the CFA operating foundation. One goal, he wrote, was to "inculcate my belief in the libertarian, free market, early American Founder's principles" into both the foundation and the individual schools. Long reliant on Bryan's money, the TeamCFA board is attempting to expand its donor base. Last spring, TeamCFA announced a \$1 million grant from the Charles Koch Foundation.

Under the law passed last year, charter management companies are supposed to run the schools for five to eight years. The State Board of Education is scheduled to vote by Dec. 15 on at least two schools to be taken over in the 2018-19 school year. School boards will have until Feb. 1 to either transfer their schools to the program or close them. In Tennessee, students in the Achievement School District that formed using the same model have not done better academically than students in comparable low-performing schools that weren't taken over.

Bryan has contributed about \$600,000 to legislative candidates in North Carolina, most of them Republican, and GOP political committees from 2011 to 2016. Included is a \$100,000 contribution to a group supporting GOP candidates for the state Supreme Court. He contributed \$50,000 to a political action committee called Truth & Prosperity, set up to support Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Forest. A vocal charter-school champion, Forest has a seat on the State Board of Education. Forest's general counsel and policy adviser, Steve Walker, is vice chairman of the state Charter School Advisory Board.(Lynn Bonner, Jane Stancill and David Raynor, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 10/09/17).

Dam Maps

Maps released by Duke Energy late last week reveal for the first time that nearly 300 individual structures -- homes, businesses and town infrastructure -- could be in danger of flooding as a result of dam failures at the energy firm's coal ash pits scattered across the state. Dams at the pits hold back a slurry of waste laced with heavy metals and other toxic elements, the byproduct of burning coal for energy. Documents Duke published online Friday afternoon model the potential impact of several different emergency scenarios, including dam breaches that would flood buildings downstream with feet of water in minutes. "These inundation maps really give an idea of what it would look like -- at a minimum -- if they were to fail into the river," Catawba Riverkeeper Sam Perkins said.

Perkins, along with other environmental advocates, announced last month they planned to sue Duke to release the documents, which the company had long held should not be released due to safety concerns. There is no requirement on the state or federal level for dam owners like Duke to notify residents or owners that structures are potentially in danger.

The company's modeling shows that structures near half of the 14 coal plants across the state would see potential impacts if coal ash dams failed. That includes 88 buildings in Stokes and Rockingham counties near the Belew's Creek plant. Near the Asheville plant, 47 buildings are at risk.

Near the Allen and Marshall plants in the Charlotte area, 100 structures are listed in the inundation maps, with projected flooding ranging from less than an inch to 4 feet. They include properties on the shores of Lake Norman, where one worst-case scenario with both storm flooding and a dam breach would transform two peninsulas of homes into islands.

Perkins said maps of those two plants, in particular, show the impact of a dam failure would be much more serious than the 2014 coal ash spill in the rural area along the Dan River, an event that triggered a series of legislative actions to close the decades-old waste pits. "Allen and Marshall are situated not just in populated areas, but in areas with some of the most booming growth," Perkins said.

For some of the locations, Culbert said, there may be much less of a risk in reality than the maps shown in the models. Although she said they're current as of the last three to five years, the company has begun to excavate or drain water from several ponds, removing some potential for flooding. Duke's current proposals to close the basins call for a "cap-in-place" solution for six of the 14 sites. The remainder will be dug up and the ash moved to lined pits elsewhere. But environmental advocates like Perkins -- who has pushed the company to excavate all of the ponds and relocate the ash in lined ponds away from water sources -- aren't convinced. With cap-in-place, Perkins said, floods from storms could still cause failure at the base of the dams, releasing toxic material into rivers.(Tyler Dukes, WRAL NEWS, 10/09/17).

Searcy Fundraising

Democratic U.S. House challenger Sam Searcy raised more than \$550,000 between July and September, his campaign announced Monday. Searcy, a Holly Springs businessman running for political office for the first time, is one of at least four Democrats challenging Raleigh Republican George Holding in the 2nd District that includes parts of Wake, Johnston, Harnett, Wilson, Nash and Franklin counties.

In 2016, Democratic candidate John McNeil raised less than \$83,000, including a personal loan of more than \$20,000 to the campaign, in his race against Holding, according to federal election data. Holding won 56.7 percent of the vote in 2016. The 40-year-old Searcy, who owns a vodka distillery, said that 85 percent of his donors live in North Carolina. "The excitement and momentum we've been building will ensure that we have the resources needed to win in 2018 and take common sense North Carolina values to Congress," said Searcy, who filed his official paperwork to run on July 10, making this his first fundraising quarter.

Third-quarter fundraising ended Sept. 30. No candidate in the race has filed a fundraising report with the FEC. The Federal Elections Commission filing deadline is Oct. 15. Candidates may need to raise as much as \$1 million to compete effectively in the 2nd District.

Holding, in his third term in Congress, raised more than \$658,000 through June for the 2018 election, according to the most recent available federal election paperwork. He had nearly \$220,000 in cash on hand June 30, according to those records. Holding, whose family controls

First Citizens Bank & Trust, raised more than \$2.6 million for his 2016 re-election campaign.(Brian Murphy, MCCLATCHY DC, 10/09/17).

Rural Teachers

A new program is offering education majors at N.C. State University a big bonus if they commit after graduation to working in some rural school districts that struggle to attract enough teachers. The TIP Teaching Scholars Award Program will give teachers a total of \$10,000 over two years, along with extra coaching from the school and the university. Ten students who graduate from N.C. State in 2019 will be placed in one of five counties -- Cabarrus, Johnston, Lenoir, Onslow and Wayne.

The effort is a partnership among the school districts, the N.C. State College of Education and The Innovation Project, a nonprofit led by the superintendents of 24 N.C. school districts. Eventually, the goal is to expand the program to other rural counties.

"We hope that having the financial award will be enough to pique their interest, and then we hope that they will see that these really are great places," Ann McColl, CEO of The Innovation Project, said of teachers. "We think we can help build a community around them that can support them. Then they can see themselves as a part of something bigger."

Program leaders hope the initiative will help ease a teacher shortage in rural North Carolina school districts. The Johnston County system in the Triangle is short 18 teachers this year, and 32 percent of new hires last year were from out of state. Cabarrus County near Charlotte needs 13 more teachers, and Onslow County in the eastern part of the state needs 28.

Some have pointed to low pay as a driving force behind the teacher shortage, but there might be additional factors, said Mary Ann Danowitz, dean of the College of Education at N.C. State. New teachers often aren't familiar with the less-populated school districts, she said, and the idea of working in a new environment can be daunting. All five school districts taking part in the new program have pockets of struggling schools where teaching can be extra difficult. At least one school in each district received a D or F score on the state's 2016-17 School Performance Grade evaluation. In some Johnston County schools, as many as 97.3 percent of students receive free or reduced-price lunch. Many students speak English as a second language or have parents who are non-native speakers.(Autumn Linford, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 10/09/17).

Teacher Bonuses

The State Board of Education is mulling a new plan to award monetary bonuses to certain teachers in elementary and middle schools. The plan would award fourth- and fifth-grade reading teachers and fourth-to-eighth-grade math teachers bonuses of up to \$5,000 per teacher based on their students' performance on end-of-grade exams. Funds would be allotted to pay teachers who are in the top 25 percent of teachers in the state, and the top 25 percent of teachers in their local school district, according to the improvements students show on the exams for reading or math over the previous year. Charter school teachers would only be eligible for the statewide bonus. The bonuses would be allocated at \$2,150 per qualifying teacher, up to \$5,000 per teacher. The bonuses would be awarded in January.

New teachers in North Carolina who possess only a bachelor's degree currently make a base salary of \$35,000, with incremental pay raises with successive years of service up to a maximum of \$51,300.

The state recently allocated similar bonuses to third-grade teachers whose students show the most growth in reading on end-of-year tests. The state also paid bonuses to teachers of specific career and technical education courses whose students receive industry-approved credentials and certificates, and teachers of advanced placement and international baccalaureate courses.(Eric Wildstein, GASTON GAZETTE, 10/09/17).

OBX Study

A computer in a small trailer nestled in the sand dunes displayed results of electronic signals sent some 60 miles over the ocean. A light-blue area changed sharply to dark blue. "That's the edge of the Gulf Stream right there," said Gabe Matthias, a research technician for the University of Georgia Skidaway Institute of Oceanography.

Matthias is part of a team researching currents flowing off the Outer Banks coast. It's a four-year project that could help Coast Guard crews with search and rescue, explain formations such as this year's emergence of Shelly Island off Hatteras Island's Cape Point, and even predict a run of good fishing.

"There's a reason people love offshore fishing at the edge of the Gulf Stream," Catherine Edwards, a Skidaway Institute scientist, said in a news release. "Areas with regular exchange of shelf and deep waters are often known hotspots for commercial and recreational fishing."

The group will study the relationship between the continental shelf and the deep ocean, said Dana Savidge, team leader and associate professor at the Skidaway Institute. The continental shelf is like an apron extending from the shoreline with shallower waters about 60 meters deep, Savidge said. The bottom drops sharply at its edge, where the water can be miles deep.

The National Science Foundation awarded a \$5 million grant to fund the effort known as PEACH -- Processes driving Exchange At Cape Hatteras -- Skidaway spokesman Michael Sullivan said.

Preliminary work began last year. Researchers chose Hatteras Island because it's where two deep-ocean currents collide, she said. The warm Gulf Stream flows from the south before meeting the Slope Sea Gyre coming from the north. The team is using a variety of instruments to transmit and receive electronic signals that measure surface and deep currents, wave action, salinity, winds, and temperature, among other things.(Jeff Hampton, THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT, 10/08/17).

HPU Poll

Seven in 10 residents of North Carolina believe that the United States is on "the wrong track," according to newly released polling from High Point University. Only 18 percent of those surveyed in the most recent HPU Poll held the opposite view, saying instead that they think the nation is going in the right direction, university officials said in a Monday afternoon news release. HPU pollsters said the last time they asked the question in April, 65 percent of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the country's direction. The poll also found that 51 percent of those polled disapproved of the way President Donald Trump is handing the job, while 35 percent voiced approval for the president. At the level of state government, fewer than half -- 44 percent -- approved of Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper's job performance, and 30 percent disapproved.

"Not much has changed in our recent observations of President Trump and Gov. Cooper's approval ratings," said Brian McDonald, associate director of the HPU Poll and an adjunct instructor of survey research. HPU's most recent poll queried a total of 404 adults across all North Carolina counties using both landline and cell phones, between Sept. 28 and Friday. The survey has an estimated margin of error of 4.9 percentage points. The survey was weighted using population estimates for cellular and landline usage, gender, race, age, education and party identification. Although a slight majority disapproved of Trump's performance, his results were improved slightly from HPU's previous polling, in which 54 percent disapproved.

By contrast, Cooper's approval rating dropped in the latest HPU poll by about 5 percent, from 49 percent in April. And his disapproval rating grew from 24 percent to 30 percent in the new poll. In other results, the latest HPU Poll found that only 13 percent of North Carolina residents approve of Congress' job performance. That's down from 22 percent in February, the last time HPU surveyors asked that question.

Many of those polled did not express an opinion on North Carolina's two U.S. senators, Richard Burr and Thom Tillis, both Republicans. Of those polled, Tills received favorable marks from 33 percent, and Burr 29 percent.(Taft Wireback, GREENSBORO NEWS & RECORD, 10/09/17).

Wake Turnout

More than 10,000 voters cast ballots early ahead of Tuesday's municipal elections in Raleigh and Cary, setting a Wake County record for early voting in odd-year, municipal elections. The number more than tripled the early-voting total from two years ago. According to the Wake County Board of Elections, 10,144 people voted early in Raleigh and Cary. It's unclear how many votes were cast for Raleigh and how many for Cary.

The Raleigh City Council earlier this year requested expanded early-voting opportunities in hopes of increasing voter turnout. In 2015, 3,047 people cast ballots early at the Wake County Board of Elections office in downtown Raleigh. That was a drop from 5,100 in 2013 and 5,700 in 2011. This

year, there were five additional early-voting sites throughout Raleigh for four days, and the early-voting period was a week longer.

There are other factors that could have contributed to higher turnout, including crowded Raleigh City Council races and a heated mayoral race. Incumbent unaffiliated candidate Nancy McFarlane is facing challengers Paul Fitts, a Republican, and Charles Francis, a Democrat.

Raleigh and Cary are the only two Wake County municipalities that vote in October. They are also the only ones that use a nonpartisan election-runoff system, which is one of four election models in North Carolina. If no candidate wins a majority of the vote, a runoff is held in November. This year, that would be Nov. 7. (Henry Gargan, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 10/09/17).

Jordan Clinics

Hornets owner Michael Jordan is donating \$7 million to launch two medical clinics in troubled Charlotte communities, in one of the largest gifts ever from the basketball legend with deep ties to North Carolina. Jordan's personal gift, which will fund Novant Health Michael Jordan Family Clinics to be built in north and northwest Charlotte. One will be at 3149 and 3153 Freedom Drive; the other will be in the Brightwalk development on Statesville Avenue.

Officials said the clinics will target a crescent-shaped region, hugging roughly an area north of uptown's skyscrapers, home to some of the city's densest concentrations of poverty. The opening of the clinics is projected for late 2020.

Jordan spokeswoman Estee Portnoy said Jordan began having conversations with Winston-Salem-based Novant -- for years the Hornets' official healthcare provider -- about 16 months ago as he sought ways to help poor populations in Charlotte. She said Jordan was largely spurred by a 2014 study from Harvard and the University of California at Berkeley that found poor children in Charlotte have the worst odds of those in any big U.S. city to lift themselves out of poverty. That report, which stunned many in the community, led to the creation of a Charlotte-Mecklenburg task force charged with identifying ways to address the city's economic-mobility problems. (Deon Roberts and Rick Bonnell, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 10/09/17).

Rising Seas

"Bottom line is we should not be building big buildings next to the beach." These were the words of Orrin Pilkey, an expert on coastal geology, during a panel discussion at a community forum on the effects of sea level rise on North Carolina last week. Pilkey and other panelists voiced strong opinions on how little state and local officials are doing to adapt to and prevent damage from sea level rise in the coming decades. The forum, "Rising Seas: How will climate change affect the NC Coast?," was part of a Community Voices series hosted by The News & Observer and WTVD-TV of Raleigh. The discussion took place at the North Carolina Museum of History on the evening of Wednesday, Sept. 27.

In addition to Pilkey, professor emeritus of earth and ocean sciences at Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University, panelists included the following: Astrid Caldas, senior climate scientist with the Climate and Energy program at the Union of Concerned Scientists; Stanley R. Riggs, professor of geology at East Carolina University; Greg "Rudi" Rudolph, Carteret County shore protection officer and a member of the Coastal Resources Commission's science panel; Todd Miller, executive director of the North Carolina Coastal Federation.

Ned Barnett, an opinion column and blog contributor at The News & Observer, moderated the panel. Barnett noted at the beginning of the forum that the panel included no climate change doubters or those who reject mainstream climate science. "We cannot devote the little time we have tonight to a debate that there is even a problem to discuss," he said.

A report released in July by the Union of Concerned Scientists, an organization Caldas said jokingly calls itself the union of pissed-off scientists, found that some coastal regions, which currently only see a few floods a year, will likely see frequent and destructive floods in coming decades. "Science is telling us that lots of localized floods are going to occur in the near term," Caldas said, "and that substantial areas are going to become part of the tidal zone in the long term."

She said that the researchers projected that Wilmington will go from experiencing a few tidal floods a year to as many as 150 by 2035. By 2045, the number of floods may be in excess of 350. She added that Duck is projected to see about 30 flooding events by 2035 and that the water will

cover extensive expanses of land. By 2045, she said, Duck may see up to 150 extensive floods annually.

One of the biggest problems, Caldas said, will be the effect of this phenomenon on poor and minority communities, who feel the effects of sea level rise in different ways. Vulnerable communities, she said, tend to live in distant areas. Flooding on roads can make it difficult to get to resources and to their jobs. "Many socially, economically vulnerable communities are on the frontlines of this whole mess, with very few resources to cope," she said.

Pilkey said that the scientific consensus is that sea level will likely rise 3 feet by the end of the century and possibly another 6 inches, depending on the behavior of the West Antarctic ice sheet. In theory, he said, a foot of sea level rise could create 2,000 feet of shoreline retreat or as much as 10,000 feet along parts of the Outer Banks. "Which means that 1 foot of sea level rise could bring the shoreline back 2 miles," he said regarding the Outer Banks.

As sea level rises, Riggs said the coast is becoming increasingly vulnerable to storm surges, but that society must develop new economies around the natural dynamics. Storms are a part of life, he said, and we must learn to live in harmony with them. Natural approaches to storm management are still possible in North Carolina, as only half of the state's coast is developed, Rudolph said.

"Don't expect enlightened policymaking in the aftermath of a storm," Miller said, "everybody's attention at that point is on recovery."

Pilkey said that he believes that after 2 feet of sea level rise, beach re-nourishment will no longer be possible, leaving communities with two choices: Move buildings back or build a seawall. The best we can do now, he said, is to stop building large structures that cannot be moved. As for people who are interested in owning coastal property, Riggs said a lack of information may make them vulnerable to make risky purchases.

"Let's at least require some statements on a deed that's out there in the high-hazard areas," Riggs said, "so a person who's not familiar knows what they're buying into." (Ashita Gona, COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE, 10/09/17).

Community Health

In 2015 and the years preceding, Halifax County came in almost dead last North Carolina's county health rankings at 99 out of 100. The local medical community was alarmed by this rating, and by the number of people suffering complications from hypertension, cancer and heart disease.

Patients were coming in with diabetes-related amputations and blindness, said Audrey Hardy, a nurse and community health coordinator for Halifax Regional.

In response, Hardy said, the medical community formed the Roanoke Valley Community Health Initiative. The group talked about changing the healthcare landscape from caring for people who are already sick to preventing disease. An additional motivation was cost: Practicing "sick care" and treating chronic diseases is costly and patients didn't always have the best insurance.

People from health, education, government, faith and community service sectors came together to help the residents of Halifax County eat healthier foods and be more active. In 2017, Halifax County's ranking notched up to 96th. "We are not pleased with our health rankings. Though it's improved, we still have a long way to go," said Halifax County Commissioner Chairman Vernon Bryant.

"We are trying to do a lot of things with the health initiative program without using taxpayer money," Bryant said. "There are lots of volunteers. Strategically, we have a plan of how to move things where they need to go." For example, there are few playgrounds and walking trails for people to exercise. As part the health initiative, through a health initiative survey, residents were asked what they wanted. The youth asked for a skate park. One just opened last year at T. J. Davis Recreation Center next to the outdoor swimming pools. There is a "map of play" there that shows all the new and renovated places in the county kids can play.

Halifax County may not have many playgrounds, but the county does have a lot of churches.

"Church is a common way people are coming together regularly," Hardy said. "We needed to tap into that. Churches are one of our strengths." In the last year, Halifax churches have started community gardens and sponsored monthly play days for kids, hosting activities such as swimming classes.

The church congregations of Calvary Baptist and Park Baptist started a garden in Roanoke Rapids on Park Baptist's land. One neighbor said they harvested as many as 400 cucumbers each day during peak season along with many other vegetables such as broccoli, butter beans and squash. Some families have individual rows, and if they have leftovers, they are encouraged to donate to local soup kitchens.(Taylor Knopf, NC HEALTH NEWS, 10/09/17).

Storm Damage

The Town of Tryon looked like a ghost town all day Monday with traffic lights out and businesses closed after a tornado-like storm ripped through late Sunday afternoon. Downtown Tryon, specifically Pacolet Street and Melrose Avenue and the third basin portion of Lake Lanier seemed to see the brunt of a massive storm that quickly tore through the area. High winds and rain hit Tryon and Lake Lanier around 5:45 p.m., causing many trees and power lines to fall on the roads and on structures and vehicles. Some in the area have reported seeing a funnel cloud with many referring to it as a tornado, although that determination had not been officially made as of Monday afternoon.

Polk County officials said Monday they had contacted the National Weather Service to come and assess the damage and to determine whether or not the event was a tornado. All of Lake Lanier and downtown Tryon area was out of power as well as a few other areas, including the valley outside Tryon. Late Sunday night, Duke Energy reported 1,500 out of power in the area.(Leah Justice, TRYON DAILY BULLETIN, 10/09/17).

Harris Teeter Lawsuit

A Harris Teeter employee is suing the Matthews-based grocery chain for failing to pay some employees for the time they spent driving to pick up keys from a manager to open the store. Employees also were required to clock out of work for an unpaid 30 minutes each shift even though they had to continue working during that break, according to the federal lawsuit, filed last week. Terry Laurence is suing Harris Teeter, where he currently works, on behalf of himself and other hourly paid employees who work as keyholders, who do some management work, grocery managers and assistant grocery managers. Harris Teeter has 243 stores in seven states.(Cassie Cope and Maria David, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 10/09/17).

Elon President

Elon University's Board of Trustees has chosen Constance "Connie" Ledoux Book as the school's next president. Book will be Elon's ninth president, and the first woman to hold the position. She started a teaching career at Elon in 1999 as an assistant professor of communications. Book is currently the provost at The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina. In a recorded message to the Elon community, Book called higher education the "everyday miracle." Book said Elon holds a unique place in higher education. "This is an academic community that recognizes the power of a strong foundation in the sciences, the arts and humanities, interwoven with active student engagement and distinctive professional and graduate programs," she said. Book replaces Leo Lambert, who has been Elon's president since 1999. Book will officially take over the position on March 1, 2018.(Will Michaels, WUNC RADIO, 10/09/17).

New Bern Fishkill

According to Katy Langly, Lower Neuse Riverkeeper, a mixture of algae blooms and a slime mold have worked together to wash up thousands of dead menhaden in New Bern. "It doesn't take much to kill them," she said of the one- to three-inch fish. When fish kills happen, menhaden usually are the first to die, and so far the most recent fish kill, which began Thursday, has been made up almost entirely of menhaden, she said.

"Earlier in the week," Langly said, "there was probably an algae bloom. That could have stressed out the fish and that's enough to knock their immune system out." A slime mold, common when the water temperatures start to cool, then came in and killed the already compromised fish, Langly said. She said she started getting calls about the kill when a few fish started washing up overnight Thursday along Pollock Street, she said. On Friday afternoon, she added, "someone called Friday saying there is a couple of dead fish on shore." By Friday night, she said, "there were hundreds of thousands and on Saturday there were thousands of thousands."

"This has happened for multiple years now," Langly said. She added that she is continuing to investigate the event.(Bill Hand, NEW BERN SUN-JOURNAL, 10/08/17).

Innovation Award

The Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments has received a 2017 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations on behalf of the area's Regional Brownfields Coalition that includes three counties and 15 municipalities. The Coalition formed in 2010 to provide technical and economic assistance to owners and potential developers of brownfields properties with the goal of putting these sites back into beneficial use. Brownfields are properties which the redevelopment or reuse may be complicated by real or potential contamination or pollution.

"The Innovation Awards program is an opportunity to recognize the important work of regional development organizations that are promoting economic development and improving quality of life for local residents," said 2016-17 NADO President Lynne Keller Forbes, executive director of the South Eastern Council of Governments in Sioux Falls, SD. "These projects demonstrate the diversity of work that regional development organizations undertake to benefit the communities and regions that they serve."

The Regional Brownfields Coalition has received over \$800,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assess contamination on properties and to determine with the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality and owners how to protect public health and the environment during redevelopment and reuse. These funds have helped leverage over \$56 million in documented redevelopment supporting hundreds of new jobs in throughout Edgecombe, Halifax, Nash, Northampton and Wilson counties.(ROCKY MOUNT TELEGRAM, 10/08/17).

Job Search

The search for a new president for Cleveland Community College has started. An advertisement for the job has published in the Chronicle of Higher Education, and resumes have already started rolling in. "The online ad went up on Tuesday, and we have already had several applications come in," said Paula Vess, spokeswoman for the college. The college hopes to have a new president in place by April 2, 2018, but that is a tentative date, according to Vess. The base salary for the position is \$148,659, but a candidate will be able to negotiate supplements in their contract, Vess said. Former college president Dr. Steve Thornburg made \$218,400 a year.

The search for the third president in the college's history comes after Thornburg was forced out amid rumors of mismanagement at the college. In May, Thornburg announced his intention to retire Jan. 1, 2018, short of his contract which ran well into 2019. But the board of trustees decided to cut his term even shorter. Thornburg left the college on July 31. The terms of his agreement included the July 31 retirement date, a lump sum payment of \$150,000, payment for all accrued annual and bonus leave for which he's eligible through the end of the month.

Thornburg is also required to release any and all future claims related to his position of president at the college.(Joyce Orlando, SHELBY STAR, 10/08/17).

Legislative Studies and Meetings

Items in **RED** are new listings.

LB: Legislative Building

LOB: Legislative Office Building.

More Information: <http://ncleg.net/LegislativeCalendar/>

Tuesday Oct. 10

- 9 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, 643 LOB.
- 10 a.m. | Child Fatality Task Force Meeting, 1027/1128 LB.
- 1 p.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice, 643 LOB.

Wednesday, Oct. 11

- 9:30 a.m. | House Convenes, House Chamber.
- 10 a.m. | Child Fatality Task Force Meeting, 1027/1128 LB.
- 1 p.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Capital Improvements, 544 LOB.

Thursday, Oct. 12

- 9 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Emergency Management Oversight Committee, 544 LOB.
- 10 a.m. | Senate Convenes, Senate Chamber.
- 10 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on the North Carolina State Lottery, 643 LOB.
- 1 p.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety, 643 LOB.

Tuesday Oct. 17

- 10 a.m. | Child Fatality Task Force Meeting, 1027/1128 LB.

Wednesday, Oct. 25

- 10 a.m. | Child Fatality Task Force Meeting, 1027/1128 LB.

Wednesday, Nov. 1

- 10 a.m. | Child Fatality Task Force Meeting, 1027/1128 LB.

Monday, Nov. 6

- **11 a.m. | House Select Committee on Strategic Transportation Planning and Long Term Funding Solutions, 2202 Burnett Blvd., Wilmington.**

Tuesday, Nov. 7

- 10 a.m. | Child Fatality Task Force Meeting, 1027/1128 LB.

Wednesday, Nov. 8

- 10 a.m. | Child Fatality Task Force Meeting, 1027/1128 LB.

Thursday, Nov. 9

- 9 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee, 643 LOB.

Wednesday, Jan. 17

- 10 a.m. | Child Fatality Task Force Meeting, 1027/1128 LB.

Wednesday, Jan. 24

- 10 a.m. | Child Fatality Task Force Meeting, 1027/1128 LB.

N.C. Government Meetings and Hearings

Items in **RED** are new listings.

Tuesday, Oct. 10

- 8:30 a.m. | The Fund Development and Communications Committee of The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. meet, 1100 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh. Contact: Yvonne Huntley, [919-821-9573](#).
- 11 a.m. | The N.C. Economic Investment Committee Board meets, 301 N. Wilmington St., Commerce Executive Board Room, 4th floor, Raleigh.
- 1 p.m. | The N.C. Property Tax Commission meets, 501 North Wilmington St., North Carolina Department of Revenue, Room 135, Raleigh.

Wednesday, Oct. 11

- 9 a.m. | The Human Resources Committee of the North Carolina State Ports Authority meets via teleconference. The teleconference will be made available in the Board Room of the North Carolina Maritime Building located at 2202 Burnett Blvd., Wilmington.
- 9 a.m. | The N.C. Property Tax Commission meets, North Carolina Department of Revenue, Room 135, Raleigh.
- 9 a.m. | The N.C. Board of Funeral Service - Notices meets, 1033 Wade Ave., Suite 108, Raleigh.
- 9 a.m. | The N.C. Council of Internal Auditing meets, 116 W. Jones St., Administration Building, 5th Floor, Commission Room, Raleigh.
- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors Board Meeting & Planning Session, Graylyn International Conference Center, Winston Salem.
- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Plant Conservation Board meets, NCDA&CS Agronomic Services Building, 4300 Reedy Creek Road, Raleigh.
- 4:30 p.m. | NCWorks Commission Performance and Accountability meets, Sheraton Four Seasons, Greensboro.

Thursday, Oct. 12

- 8 a.m. | The N.C. Veterinary Medical Board meets, 1611 Jones Franklin Rd. Suite 106, Raleigh.
- 9 a.m. | The N.C. Board of Nursing Licensure Review Panel meets, 4516 Lake Boone Trl., Raleigh.

Friday, Oct. 13

- 8:30 a.m. | The State Board of Dental Examiners meets, 2000 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 160, Morrisville.
- 9 a.m. | The N.C. Property Tax Commission meets, 501 North Wilmington St., North Carolina Department of Revenue / Room 135, Raleigh.
- 9 a.m. | The N.C. Home Inspector Licensure Board meets, 116 West Jones St., Raleigh.
- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Basic Law Enforcement Training Revision Committee hold public meeting, 1001 Burkemont Ave., Morganton.
- 12:30 p.m. | The NCWorks Commission Education and Training Committee meets, 3121 W. Gate City Road, Sheraton Four Seasons, Greensboro.

Tuesday, Oct. 17

- 1:30 p.m. | The Accountability Committee of The North Carolina Partnership for Children meets, 1100 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh. Contact: Yvonne Huntley, [919-821-9573](#).

Thursday, Oct. 19

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Friday, Oct. 20

- 8:30 a.m. | The State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating & Fire Sprinkler Contractors meets, TBD.
- 9 a.m. | The State Board of Community Colleges meets, 200 West Jones St., Caswell Building Raleigh.

Monday, Oct. 23

- 8 a.m. | Western Carolina University Board of Trustees meets, 501 HFR Building, Cullowhee.
- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Military Affairs Commission 4th Quarter NCMAC Base Sustainability/Community Affairs meets, 413 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Tuesday, Oct. 24

- 8 a.m. | The state Board of Barber Examiners meets, 5809 Departure Dr., Ste 102, Raleigh.
- 10 a.m. | The NC Military Affairs Commission 4th Quarter NCMAC Economic Development meeting, 413 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.
- 11 a.m. | The state Economic Investment Committee Board meets, 301 N. Wilmington St., Commerce Executive Board Room, 4th floor, Raleigh.
- 12 p.m. | The State Bar 2017 October Annual Meeting, 217 E. Edenton St., NC State Bar Building, Raleigh.
- 1 p.m. | The N.C. Code Officials Qualification Board meets, 116 West Jones St., Raleigh.

Wednesday, Nov. 1

- 10:30 a.m. | The Standard Commercial Fishing License Eligibility Board to the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries meets, N.C. Department of Environmental Quality's Wilmington Regional Office, 127 N. Cardinal Drive Extension, Wilmington.

Wednesday, Nov. 8

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Thursday, Nov. 9

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Monday, Nov. 13

- 11 a.m. | The Executive Committee of The North Carolina Partnership for Children meets, 1100 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh. Contact: Yvonne Huntley, [919-821-9573](tel:919-821-9573).

Tuesday, Nov. 14

- 12:30 p.m. | The NC Pesticide Board meets, Gov. James Martin Building - N.C. State Fairgrounds, Raleigh.

Thursday, Nov. 16

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Thursday, Dec. 7

- TBD | The Golden LEAF Foundation's board meets, TBD. Contact: Jenny Tinklepaugh, [888-684-8404](tel:888-684-8404).
- TBD | The NC Wildlife Resources Commission meets, 1751 Varsity Dr., Raleigh.

Thursday, Dec. 14

- 10 a.m. | The N.C. Rules Review Commission meets, Administrative Hearings office, Rules Review Commission Room, 1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh.

Wednesday, Jan. 10

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Thursday, Jan. 11

- 9 a.m. | Environmental Management Commission meets, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh.

N.C. Utilities Commission Hearing Schedule

Dobbs Building
430 North Salisbury Street
Raleigh, North Carolina

More Information: <http://www.ncuc.commerce.state.nc.us/activities/activit.htm>

Tuesday, Oct. 10

- 10 a.m. | E-100 Sub 147 .. 2016 Biennial Integrated Resource Plans and Related 2016 REPS Compliance Plans, Dobbs - Commission Hearing Room, 2nd floor, Room 2115.

Wednesday, Oct. 11

- 7 p.m. | E-2 Sub 1142 ...Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC for Adjustment of Rates and Charges Applicable to Electric Service in North Carolina, Greene County Courthouse, 310 N. Greene Street, Snow Hill.

Thursday, Oct. 12

- 7 p.m. | E-2 Sub 1142 ...Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC for Adjustment of Rates and Charges Applicable to Electric Service in North Carolina, New Hanover County Courthouse, 316 Princess St., Wilmington.

Monday, Oct. 16

- Staff Conference

Friday, Oct. 20

- 10 a.m. | T-4624 Sub 2 .. Show Cause, Dobbs - Commission Hearing Room, 2nd floor, Room 2115.

Monday, Oct. 23

- Staff Conference

Tuesday, Oct. 24

- 6:30 p.m. | E-34 Sub 46 ...Application of Appalachian State University d/b/a New River Light and Power Company for an Adjustment of Rates and Charges for Electric Service in North Carolina, Watauga County Courthouse, 842 W. King St., Boone.

Wednesday, Oct. 25

- 6 p.m. | W-390 Sub 13 ...Petition to Appoint Emergency Operator and Increase Rates, Macon County Courthouse, 5 W. Main St., Franklin.

Thursday, Oct. 26

- 10 a.m. | Complaint - Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, Old Civil Courts Building, Mecklenburg County, 800 E. 4th St., Charlotte.

Monday, Oct. 30

- Staff Conference
- 6:30 p.m. | E-2 Sub 1150 ...Application for CPCN to Construct Cleveland-Matthews Transmission Line, Johnston County, Johnston County Courthouse, 207 E. Johnston St., Smithfield.

Tuesday, Oct. 31

- 10 a.m. | E-2 Sub 1150 ...Application for CPCN to Construct Cleveland-Matthews Transmission Line, Johnston County, Dobbs - Commission Hearing Room, 2nd floor, Room 2115.

Wednesday, Nov. 1

- 10 a.m. | G-41 Sub 50 ...Toccoa Natural Gas' Annual Prudence Review for the Period Beginning July 1, 2016 and Ending June 30, 2017, Dobbs - Commission Hearing Room, 2nd floor, Room 2115.

Monday, Nov. 6

- Staff Conference
- 1:30 | E-22 Sub 544, 545, 546 ... Application by Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Energy North Carolina for Approval of Renewable Energy, Dobbs - Commission Hearing Room, 2nd floor, Room 2115.

Monday, Nov. 13

- Staff Conference

Monday, Nov. 20

- Staff Conference

Monday, Nov. 27

- Staff Conference

Monday, Dec. 4

- Staff Conference

UNC Board of Governors

Board Room of the UNC Center for School Leadership Development
140 Friday Center Drive, Chapel Hill (**remote meeting locations in RED**)
More Information: <https://www.northcarolina.edu/bog/schedule.php>

Friday, Nov. 3

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

Friday, Dec. 15

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

Friday, Jan. 26, 2018

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

Friday, March 23, 2018

- TBA | UNC Wilmington, Wilmington.

Friday, May 25, 2018

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality

The N.C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources has a new name - the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality. More Information: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/guest/home>

Wednesday, Dec. 13

- 9 a.m. | The State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (SCFAC) meets, Dix Grill, 1101 Cafeteria Dr., Raleigh.

Other Meetings and Events of Interest

Items in **RED** are new listings.

Wednesday, Oct. 11

- 10 a.m. | The Carolinas Air Pollution Control Association hold Technical Workshop and Forum, Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort, 10000 Beach Club Dr., Myrtle Beach.

Monday, Nov. 6

- TBD | The NC Bankers Association hold Women in Banking Conference, Renaissance Charlotte Southpark, 5501 Carnegie Blvd., Charlotte.

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